

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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R 110430Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7593
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPEHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0965

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOC, PINS, CY
SUBJECT: FURTHER ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF FAR RIGHT

REF: A. 77 NICOSIA 2984; B. NICOSIA 767 C. NICOSIA 615
D. NICOSIA 689

1. CYPRUS POLICE HAVE ARRESTED AT LEAST 18 PEOPLE IN PAST
WEEK FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY. MOST IMPORTANT AMONG THOSE
DETAINED IS VASSOS PAVLIDES, ALIAS THE DOCTOR, WHO
ORGANIZED KIDNAPPING OF PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S SON LAST
DECEMBER AND THEREBY GAINED IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION FOR
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THAT CRIME AND FOR EARLIER INDICTMENT ON ILLEGAL
POSSESSION OF ARMS. OTHER DETAINEES APPEAR TO BE ADHERENTS
OF EOKA B OR OTHER EXTREME RIGHT-WING ORGANIZATIONS.
ACCORDING TO GOC ANNOUNCEMENTS, ARRESTS WERE RESULT OF
MANY MONTHS' INVESTIGATION BY AUTHORITIES WHICH INCLUDED
PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY "REPENTANT" EOKA B MEMBERS.
THOSE ARRESTED ARE ACCUSED OF BELONGING TO GROUPS FORMED

BY PAVLIDES FOR "CAUSING UNREST IN THE COUNTRY AND CARRYING OUT ATTACKS ON POLITICAL PERSONALITIES AND FOREIGN OFFICIALS." SOME ARE CHARGED WITH HAVING TRANSPORTED ARMS FOR THIS PURPOSE. ALL HAVE BEEN REMANDED TO CUSTODY PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

2. IN APPARENT REFERENCE TO ARRESTS, PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SAID IN PUBLIC ADDRESS APRIL 9 THAT STATE WOULD BE MERCILESS TOWARD THOSE WHO ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND SOUGHT TO DISTURB UNITY OF THE STATE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THOSE WHO HAD NOT SURRENDERED ILLEGAL ARMS BY MAY 15 DEADLINE (REF D) WOULD FACE "ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITIES."

3. ELEMENTS OF SENSATIONALIST PRESS APRIL 10 SPECULATE THAT THOSE ARRESTED WERE CONSPIRING TO CREATE CHAOS AND BRING ABOUT ANOTHER "INTERVENTION" IN CYPRUS. ACCORDING THESE REPORTS, PLOTTERS WERE PLANNING TO ATTACK AMERICAN EMBASSY AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, CREATE DISTURBANCES ALONG GREEN LINE, ENGAGE IN SABOTAGE, KIDNAPPINGS, AND MURDER OF POLITICAL LEADERS. ATTACK ON RIGHTIST DEMOCRATIC RALLY HEADQUARTERS WAS ALSO SUPPOSEDLY BEING PLANNED TO THROW SUSPICION IN WRONG DIRECTION.

4. IN PAST WEEKS, LEFTIST PRESS HAS CHARGED THAT SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS WERE BEING FORMED BY REMNANTS OF EOKA B FOR PURPOSE OF DESTROYING UNITY OF THE STATE.
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THESE PAPERS SUGGESTED THAT U.S. IMPERIALISM, CIA, WEST GERMAN NEO-NAZISM, GREEK JUNTISTS, AND ISRAELI ZIONISM WERE BEHIND THE PLOT. (SEE NICOSIA 760, NOTAL, FOR REPORT ON PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S SUSPICION THAT ISRAELIS ARE INVOLVED IN SUBVERSION.)

5. COMMENT. THIS WAVE OF ARRESTS IS CONTINUING INDICATION OF GOC'S WILLINGNESS, UNDER KYPRIANOU, TO MOVE AGAINST EXTREME RIGHT. IF CONVINCING EVIDENCE IS PRODUCED TO SHOW THAT THOSE ARRESTED WERE INDEED CONSPIRING TO COMMIT ACTS OF TERRORISM, THE MASS OF CYPRIOTS, INCLUDING RESPECTABLE RIGHT WING, WILL HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR THEM. IF, HOWEVER, IT DEVELOPS THAT GOVERNMENT IS INVENTING PRETEXT TO HARASS EOKA B, RIGHT WING WILL BE ALARMED OVER WHAT IT WILL SEE AS LEFTIST INFLUENCE OVER KYPRIANOU. RIGHT WILL ALSO BE DISTURBED IF, AS IS LIKELY, GOC DOES NOT MOVE TO DISARM EDEK (SOCIALIST) CADRES AS ENERGETICALLY AS IT APPEARS TO BE MOVING AGAINST EOKA B. END COMMENT.
STONE

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